



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Upper Colorado Region
Provo Area Office
302 East 1860 South
Provo, Utah 84606-7317

IN REPLY REFER TO:

PRO-770

ENV-6.00

JUN - 7 2006

To: Interested Persons, Organizations, and Agencies

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment, Proposed Colorado River Salinity Control Program
Tropic Ditch Replacement Project

The Tropic and East Fork Irrigation Company plans to undertake construction activities on the Tropic Ditch in Garfield County, Utah. The Bureau of Reclamation, Provo Area Office (Reclamation) has proposed funding the project under the Colorado River Salinity Control Program (CRSCP). The proposed project entails replacing approximately 5.5 miles of the existing open ditch with approximately 4 miles of pipe. The purpose of the project is to reduce seepage which in turn causes high amounts of salt to enter the Paria River and ultimately the Colorado River.

The project is located near Tropic, in Garfield County, Utah. Approximately one mile of the project lies within Bryce Canyon National Park. The project is located within the Paria River sub-basin of the Colorado River Basin.

Reclamation has prepared the enclosed draft Environmental Assessment (EA) as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality and U.S. Department of the Interior regulations implementing NEPA. The National Park Service, Bryce Canyon National Park is a cooperating agency on this EA. This draft EA has been sent to about 30 interested agencies, organizations and individuals and about 280 additional parties have been notified of its availability on the internet at www.usbr.gov/uc/envdocs/index.html.

A copy of the draft EA is enclosed for your review and comment. Comments may be provided to our office until June 30, 2006. Written comments should be addressed to Bureau of Reclamation, Attention: Mr. Rafael Lopez, PRO-776, 302 East 1860 South, Provo, Utah 84606-7317. Comments may also be submitted via email to rlopez@uc.usbr.gov. If you need further information, please contact Mr. Lopez at 801-379-1185.

Sincerely,

Bruce C. Barrett
Area Manager

Enclosure



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Reclamation has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the replacement of the Tropic Ditch as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality and U.S. Department of the Interior regulations implementing NEPA. The National Park Service, Bryce Canyon National Park is a cooperating agency on this EA. The EA analyzes the potential impacts of the proposed action to pipe the Tropic Ditch.

This letter is to inform you of the availability of the draft EA for review and comment. The EA may be accessed in the following ways:

- An electronic copy of the draft EA can be found on the Reclamation website at <http://www.usbr.gov/uc/envdocs/index.html>.
- A copy of the draft EA is available for review at the Town of Tropic offices, 40 North 300 West, Tropic, UT 84776 and at the Panguitch Public Library, 25 South 200 East, Panguitch, UT 84759.
- A hard copy of the EA may be requested from Reclamation using the contact information provided below.

Comments are due by June 30, 2006 and should be sent to Mr. Rafael Lopez, PRO-776, Bureau of Reclamation, Provo Area Office, 302 East 1860 South, Provo, UT 84606-7317, email rlopez@uc.usbr.gov. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Lopez at 801-379-1185.

Sincerely,

Bruce C. Barrett
Area Manager